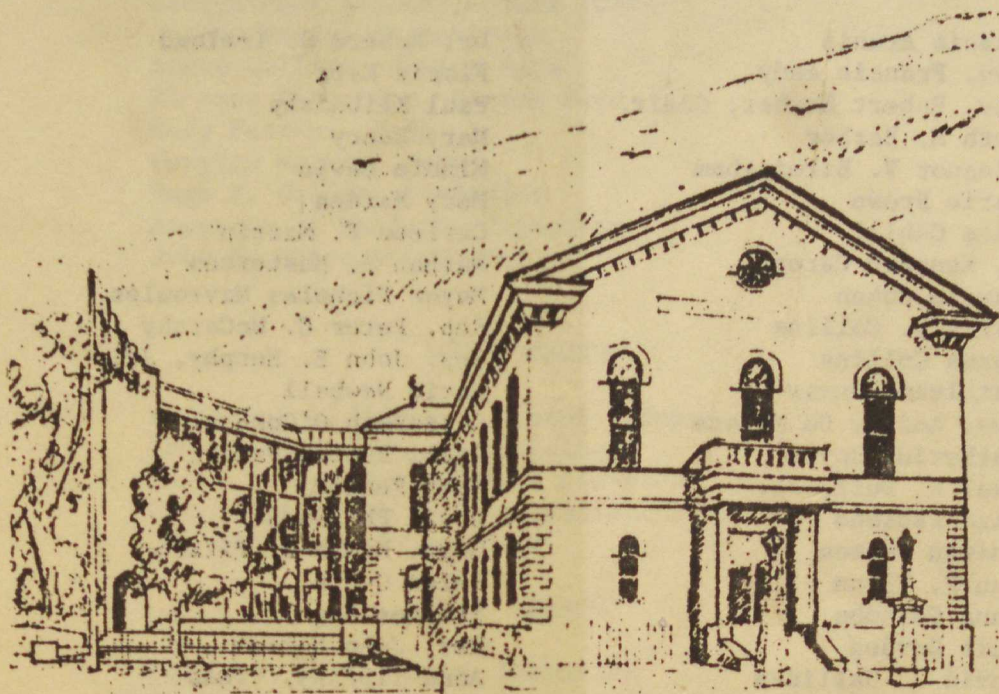


PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY



**126TH ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1977**

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Katherine A. Nollner, *Branch Librarian*
Mary Cullen, *Library Assistant*
Helen T. Hegarty, *Library Assistant*
Cynthia Hubbard, *Library Assistant*
Joseph McGeney, *Custodian*

WEST BRANCH

Mary Ann List, *Branch Librarian*
Cheryl Brown, *Library Assistant*
Joan Cantor, *Library Assistant*
Angela Anastas, *Page*
Bruce Levin, *Page*
James Connors, *Custodian*

STATE LIBRARY

The past year marked the beginning of an exciting new era in library service for Peabody. Ground breaking for the new main library, introduction of computerized cataloging, our first year as a publicly owned institution, and new staff appointments marked the highlights of the last year.

The Federal Government provided an early Christmas present in December of 1976 with the announcement that the City had been awarded \$1,800,000 by the Economic Development Administration to fund the addition and renovation of the main library. Only 35 of more than 500 projects from Massachusetts were funded and we were one of only four library projects in Massachusetts to be funded. Ground breaking took place on April 20, 1977 with completion scheduled for October 1978. This is the first major expansion of the library since 1868.

In February of 1977, the library joined a computer-based cataloging system operated by the Boston Public Library. With our own terminal, we are linked to a time-sharing computer in downtown Boston. The computer produces catalog cards, circulation labels and book pocket labels and maintains a machine readable data base of the library's collection which can be used for production of COM catalogs, on-line catalogs and circulation systems. We will soon be able to supply both branch libraries with a catalog of the main library holdings which should greatly improve the service we can give to patrons at the branch libraries. In addition to improved service, the system has provided substantial savings over the cost of manual processing. Without the system, we would have had to hire at least two additional clerks for the processing department to handle the work load.

1977 also saw several new employees join the staff. Mary Rogalski, formerly South Branch Librarian, replaced Dana Rizzotti as Technical Services Librarian; JoAnne Kwiecinski replaced Esther Johnson as Childrens' Librarian; Katherine Nollner replaced Mary Rogalski as South Branch Librarian and Mary Ann List replaced Beryl Strogney as West Branch Librarian. All four new staff members have Masters Degrees in Library Science. Miss Johnson retired after nearly fifty-one years as Childrens' Librarian. She joined the staff in 1927, a few months after the Childrens Department was

created. Beryl Strogney retired as West Branch Librarian after nearly twenty years. She joined the library when it was housed in the Kiley Elementary School and saw it grow from the school to a warehouse at the Lowe Mart Shopping Center to the West Peabody Fire Station and finally next door to a building of its own. Mrs. Strogney can take great pride in building a fine library that is strongly supported and used by the community. Its success is due in great measure to her own hard work and the reputation she developed for courteous and efficient service. Upon her retirement, the Friends of the West Branch Library dedicated the new Childrens' Room in her honor.

Fiscal 1977 also saw our first year of operation as a publicly owned library since our incorporation in 1881. The transition to public ownership went smoothly with the City processing most of our bills. Yet to be completed is the transfer of the library employees to the City payroll and the dissolution of the library corporation, both to be completed by June of 1978.

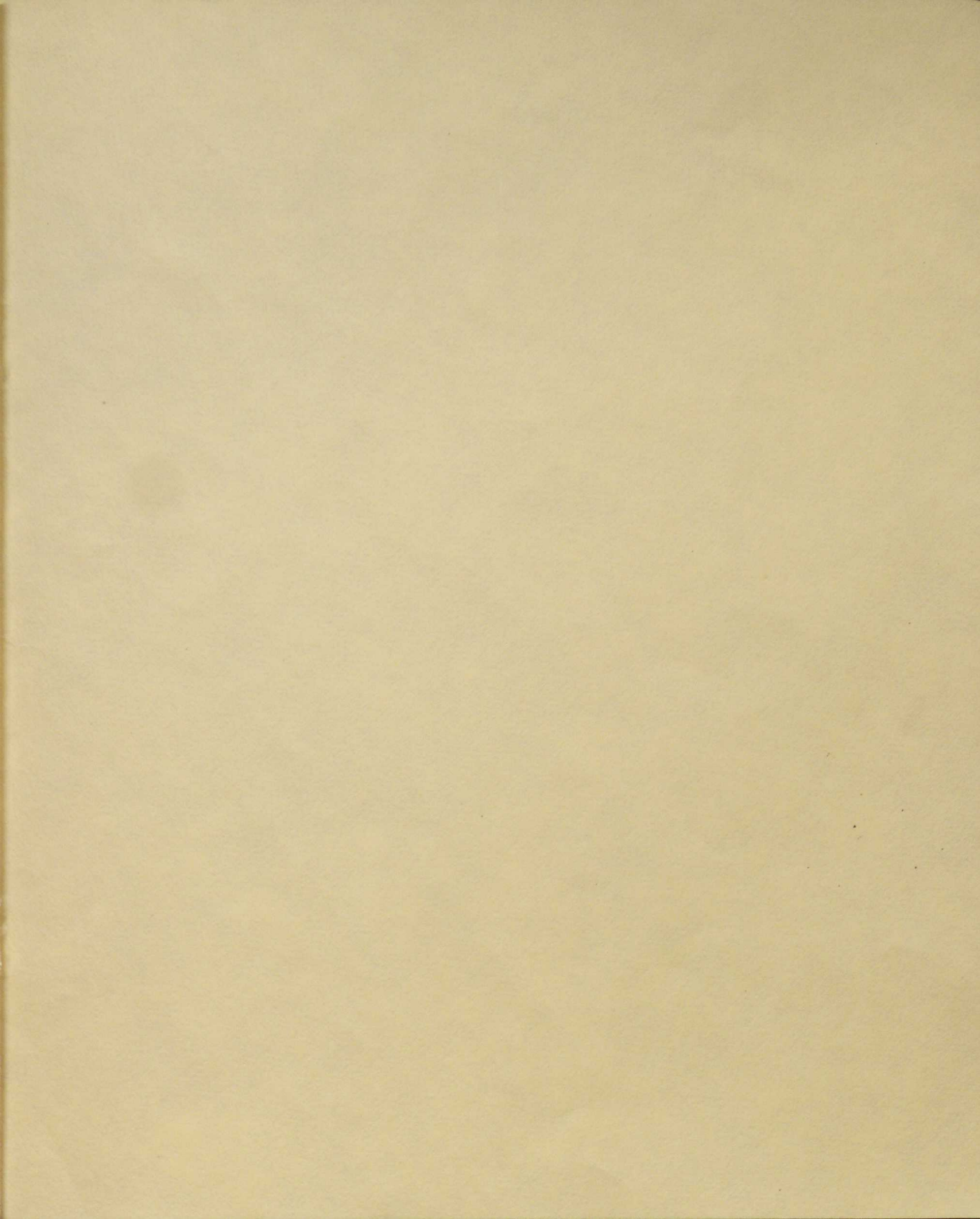
While 1977 had mostly ups, it also had its downs. In February of 1977, a man posing as a researcher stole 86 pages from our Birds of America by John James Audubon. The theft was also stealing Audubon prints from the Boston Public Library and the New Bedford Free Public Library. Although the person responsible was arrested and sentenced to jail, the recovery of the prints will be a long process.

The past year marked the culmination of much planning and hard work by many people. 1976-77 may well be the most significant year since the library's founding in 1852. We are on our way in the years ahead to a vital and active library system, growing to meet the needs of the residents of Peabody and providing them with the best library service available.

My thanks to the Board of Trustees without whose active support the innovations and improvements would not have been possible. Thanks also to the Lyceum and Library Committee and the Friends of the West Branch for their support during the last year. To the staff, as always, a special thanks for their hard work, dedication and innovation. They are an outstanding group of professional librarians and it is a pleasure to work with them.

STATISTICS July 1, 1976-June 30, 1977

	MAIN BRANCH	SOUTH BRANCH	WEST BRANCH	TOTAL
CIRCULATION				
Books	58,525	34,159	45,904	138,588
Periodicals	2,864	1,237	1,466	5,567
Pamphlets	245	29	23	297
Record Albums	1,074	---	979	2,053
Films & Filmstrips	0	---	---	0
Museum Passes	58	---	---	58
TOTAL	62,766	35,425	48,372	146,563
ACQUISITIONS				
Books	2,442	968	1,294	4,704
Record Albums	22	---	93	115
Pamphlets	80	156	72	308
Films & Filmstrips	0	---	---	0
Posters	0	0	---	0
TOTAL	2,544	1,124	1,459	5,127
WITHDRAWALS				
Books	0	2,524	2,666	5,190
Record Albums	0	---	6	6
Pamphlets	0	2	---	2
Posters	0	2,526	2,672	5,198
TOTAL	0	2,526	2,672	5,198
HOLDINGS				
Books	41,776	8,086	14,030	63,898
Record Albums	1,046	---	1,328	2,374
Pamphlets	1,033	557	72	1,662
Films & Filmstrips	13	---	---	13
Museum Passes	8	---	---	8
Posters	56	54	---	110



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